

Daughters in His Kingdom

February 24, 2014

Every song has a story that is spurred by inspiration and purpose. Most of us may never know the stories behind the beautiful songs of our church, but when we do, or are a part of that story, it needs to be shared. “Daughters in His Kingdom” is such a song.

In September of 2011, Renée Packer, the Stake Relief Society President in the Layton Utah South Stake was visiting with her Ward Relief Society President, Sister Raegene Weston, who voiced her concern to Sister Packer that some of the Young Women entering into adulthood had a challenging time accepting the fact that they were now going to be a “Relief Society sister.” Sister Weston mentioned how she noticed that lessons and songs were taught in Primary to help boys prepare for the Priesthood, but she couldn’t think of any songs or lessons that would help the girls look forward to becoming a faithful Relief Society sister, anxious to enter its doors.

Renée, a volunteer in the Relief Society Building Resource room in Salt Lake City, discussed this issue with Sister Denise Doxey, a member of the General Relief Society board and proposed the idea of asking someone to write a song that would help the sisters of the church, from Primary age on up, to have a greater understanding of their purpose and potential as faithful women and daughters of God. The idea of this song was to help them look forward to becoming a part of the wonderful Relief Society of the Church. After several discussions, Sister Doxey told Renée to go ahead with the idea and see what might happen and suggested the title as it stands today.

In October 2011, after much prayer and contemplation, Renée felt impressed to call her friend, Tami Creamer, who composed the song, “I Know That My Savior Loves Me,” to write a new song joining the voices of Primary girls, Young Women and Relief Society sisters. Tami had long ago envisioned composing a song with the same purpose for all sisters. They both knew that they must go forward with faith.

Renée encouraged Tami to read the new Relief Society book, “Daughters in My Kingdom,” to gain inspiration for writing the song. Tami says, “Over the next few months, things began to evolve. I felt very humbled and unprepared to take on this task, but also very blessed to be an instrument in the Lord’s hands. As I accepted Renée’s challenge to read “Daughters in My Kingdom,” I found myself learning more about sisters who had gone before and who had made lasting contributions to building up the Kingdom. This too became my desire.”

After a challenging and trying time in Tami’s life, making it difficult to begin the process of song writing, Renée called to see how the song was coming along. She mentioned that their Stake would like to sing it at a special “All Women’s Fireside,” for sisters ages 8 and up in May of 2012. The pressure was on.

Within a few days of this phone call, Tami became ill with bronchitis, which she considered a blessing in disguise. She mentioned, “As I had time to study, ponder, and pray, the Lord blessed me with many tender mercies and the words just flowed. I was overwhelmed with gratitude. I felt that once the words were established, the rest would be easy, since I consider myself to be more of a composer than a lyricist. That didn’t prove to be the case! As I attempted to write the music, I was hit with several road blocks. During one of these road blocks, Renée shared with me a fitting scripture in Colossians 3:16 which read, *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* This helped tremendously, and after feeling discouraged, the Lord opened the heavens and poured out His blessings in the form of the music for this song. I definitely had help from beyond the veil. It was one of the most amazing tender mercies I’ve had in my life.”

Tami emailed the completed copy to Renée and said, “OK. Here it is!!!! I hope that this is what you were thinking of. I really feel good about it. I pray that it is worthy enough to someday be sung at a General Meeting! We’ll just see.”

Tami finished the song on March 15, 2012, and called her Stake Relief Society President in the Syracuse Utah Stake to let her know she had just finished a song that would go along perfectly with the theme of their Stake Women's Conference, which was "Daughters in My Kingdom." With only two days till this meeting, she received permission to quickly put together a small choir to sing this song. On this historic day, March 17, 2012, the 170th anniversary of the Relief Society, "Daughters in His Kingdom" was first performed with a small choir of Primary girls, Young Women, and Relief Society sisters.

A recording of the song was produced for rehearsal and sharing purposes. Then on Sunday, May 20, 2012, Renée's Stake held their first fireside for all sisters, ages 8 and up, with over 600 in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to help each understand their role as noble daughters of God, and to also help the younger women look forward to becoming a Relief Society sister. The song "Daughters in His Kingdom," with a choir of over 40, accompanied with piano, strings and flute, was performed with a prevailing spirit that helped unify the sweet relationships that we have as women. What a powerful testimony of our Heavenly Father's love for each of us.

Since the inception of this song, it has been performed in numerous meetings, shared with thousands, won an award through the Church music competition, and has even been sung on a little island in French Polynesia. On March 29, 2014, it will be performed by a choir of over 350 sisters in the Conference Center in the very first General Women's Meeting for sisters ages 8 and up. Women all over the world will be able to hear this song and feel of its compelling spirit.

"How grateful we have been to be a part of this wonderful work and to have been given so many tender mercies throughout this process. To this we testify that the Lord lives, loves us and honors all women as His daughters."

Tami J. Creamer
Renée W. Packer